



## Arrowrock Dam: A Century of Service 1915-2015

### Historical Timeline of Events

Since 1915, Arrowrock Dam has been a cornerstone of development in Idaho's Treasure Valley, providing irrigation water to farmers and flood control on the lower Boise River.

[www.usbr.gov/snakeriver/arrowrock100/](http://www.usbr.gov/snakeriver/arrowrock100/)

#### 1911

Construction of Arrowrock Dam began, making it the first large federal dam on the upper Boise River.

#### 1912

A powerplant at the Boise River Diversion Dam, consisting of three 500-kilowatt units, furnished electric power for Arrowrock Dam construction crews. A 17-mile railroad connected the construction camp (referred to as Arrowrock City), with Barber Junction just northeast of Boise. The train hauled supplies, workers and visitors to the damsite, becoming a popular attraction during construction. Arrowrock City had its own post office and thousands of employees lived there or in tents along the mountainside.

#### 1915

Arrowrock Dam was officially dedicated on October 4 and construction was completed in November. The dam provided flood control and water stored for irrigation. At the time of its construction, Arrowrock Dam was the tallest dam in the world.

#### 1976

Arrowrock Dam was listed on the National Register of Historic Place.

#### 2003

The Ensign valves at elevation 3,018 feet were removed and replaced with clamshell gates on the downstream side of the dam. The Ensign valves at elevation 3,105 feet remain in place, but are rarely used. Each valve is connected to a tube that passes water through the dam. The new clamshell gates make it safer to maintain and inspect the dam without lowering the reservoir.

#### 2010

A powerplant, owned and operated by the Boise Project Board of Control, was constructed at Arrowrock Dam.

